

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS  
EASTERN DIVISION**

ARDELL DUPATY, )  
on behalf of plaintiff and the class defined )  
below, )  
                        )  
Plaintiff,           )  
                        )  
vs.                   )  
                        )  
HALSTED FINANCIAL SERVICES, LLC,       )  
                        )  
Defendant.           )

**COMPLAINT – CLASS ACTION**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. Plaintiff Ardell DuPaty brings this action to secure redress from unlawful credit and collection practices engaged in by defendant Halsted Financial Services, LLC. Plaintiff alleges violation of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. §227 (“TCPA”).

2. The TCPA restricts the use of automated equipment to dial cellular telephones.

**VENUE AND JURISDICTION**

3. This Court has jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §§1331, 1337 and 1367.

4. Venue and personal jurisdiction in this District are proper because:

a. Defendant’s collection communications were received by plaintiff within this District;

b. Defendant transacts business within this District.

**PARTIES**

5. Plaintiff Ardell DuPaty is an individual who resides in the Northern District of Illinois.

6. Defendant Halsted Financial Services, LLC is an Illinois limited liability corporation with its principal office located at 1822 North Ridge Avenue, Suite 120, Evanston, Illinois 60201. Its registered agent is Syed Ali located at 8548 Kerlov Avenue, Skokie, Illinois

60076.

7. Halsted Financial Services, LLC is engaged in the business of a collection agency, using the mails and telephone to collect consumer debts originally owed to others.

**FACTS**

8. Defendant has been attempting to collect a payday loan from Plaintiff.

9. During March and April 2013, plaintiff received a series of automated telephone messages on his cell phone, including on April 10, 2013 at 3:34 p.m. and on April 18, 2013 at 4:39 p.m.

10. On information and belief, the calls were placed using predictive dialers. The predictive dialers place calls without human intervention until a connection is made, in which case the dialers attempt to connect the recipient with a debt collector.

11. Plaintiff did not authorize the automated placement of calls to his cell phone.

12. Plaintiff did not furnish his cell phone number to defendant.

13. Plaintiff and each class member is entitled to statutory damages.

14. Defendant violated the TCPA even if their actions were only negligent.

15. Defendant should be enjoined from committing similar violations in the future.

**COUNT I – TCPA**

16. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1-15.

17. The TCPA, 47 U.S.C. §227, provides:

**§ 227. Restrictions on use of telephone equipment**

**(b) Restrictions on use of automated telephone equipment.**

**(1) Prohibitions. It shall be unlawful for any person within the United States, or any person outside the United States if the recipient is within the United States—**

**(A) to make any call (other than a call made for emergency purposes or made with the prior express consent of the called party) using any automatic telephone dialing system or an artificial or prerecorded voice—**

**(iii) to any telephone number assigned to a paging service,**

**cellular telephone service, specialized mobile radio service, or other radio common carrier service, or any service for which the called party is charged for the call; . . .**

18. The TCPA, 47 U.S.C. §227(b)(3), further provides:

**Private right of action.**

**A person or entity may, if otherwise permitted by the laws or rules of court of a State, bring in an appropriate court of that State—**

- (A) an action based on a violation of this subsection or the regulations prescribed under this subsection to enjoin such violation,**
- (B) an action to recover for actual monetary loss from such a violation, or to receive \$500 in damages for each such violation, whichever is greater, or**
- (C) both such actions.**

**If the Court finds that the defendant willfully or knowingly violated this subsection or the regulations prescribed under this subsection, the court may, in its discretion, increase the amount of the award to an amount equal to not more than 3 times the amount available under the subparagraph (B) of this paragraph.**

19. Defendant violated the TCPA by placing automated calls to plaintiff's cell phone.

**CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

20. Plaintiff brings this claim on behalf of a class, consisting of (a) all persons with numbers in the Illinois area codes (217, 224, 309, 312, 331, 464, 618, 630, 708, 773, 779, 815, 847, or 872) (b) who, on or after a date four years prior to the filing of this action (28 U.S.C. §1658), and on or before a date 20 days following the filing of this action, (c) received automated calls from defendant (d) where defendant's records do not show that the person provided the number to the defendant or the original creditor (for example, where the number was obtained through skip tracing or captured by the defendant's equipment from an inbound call).

21. The class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impractical. Plaintiff alleges on information and belief that there are more than 40 members of the class.

22. There are questions of law and fact common to the class that predominate over any questions affecting only individual class members. The predominant common questions include:

- a. Whether defendant engaged in a pattern of using automated equipment to place calls to cellular telephones;
- b. The manner in which defendant obtained the cell phone numbers;
- c. Whether defendant thereby violated the TCPA;

23. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class. Plaintiff has retained counsel experienced in handling class actions and claims involving unlawful business practices. Neither plaintiff nor plaintiff's counsel have any interests which might cause them not to vigorously pursue this action.

24. A class action is an appropriate method for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy. The interest of class members in individually controlling the prosecution of separate claims against defendant is small because it is not economically feasible to bring individual actions.

25. Several courts have certified class actions under the TCPA. Sadowski v. Med1 Online, LLC, 07 C 2973, 2008 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 41766 (N.D.Ill., May 27, 2008); Hinman v. M & M Rental Ctr., 06 C 1156, 2008 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 27835 (N.D.Ill., April 7, 2008); Kavu, Inc. v. Omnipak Corp., 246 F.R.D. 642 (W.D.Wash. 2007); Gortho, Ltd., v. Websolv, 03 CH 15615 (Cir. Ct. Cook Co., March 6, 2008); Travel 100 Group, Inc. v. Empire Cooler Service, Inc., 03 CH 14510, 2004 WL 3105679 (Cook Co. Cir. Ct., Oct. 19, 2004); Rawson v. C.P. Partners LLC, 03 CH 14510 (Cook Co. Cir. Ct., Sept. 30, 2005); Lampkin v. GGH, Inc., 146 P.3d 847 (Okla. Ct. App. 2006); Display South, Inc. v. Express Computer Supply, Inc., 961 So.2d 451, 455 (La. App. 1<sup>st</sup> Cir. 2007); Display South, Inc. v. Graphics House Sports Promotions, Inc., 992 So. 2d 510 (La. App. 1<sup>st</sup> Cir. 2008); ESI Ergonomic Solutions, LLC v. United Artists Theatre

Circuit, Inc., 203 Ariz. (App.) 94, 50 P.3d 844 (2002); Core Funding Group, LLC v. Young, 792 N.E.2d 547 (Ind.App. 2003); Nicholson v. Hooters of Augusta, Inc., 245 Ga.App. 363, 537 S.E.2d 468 (2000) (private class actions); see State of Texas v. American Blast Fax, Inc., 164 F. Supp. 2d 892 (W.D. Tex. 2001) (state enforcement action).

26. Management of this class action is likely to present significantly fewer difficulties than those presented in many class actions, e.g. for securities fraud.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff requests that the Court enter judgment in favor of plaintiff and the class and against defendant for:

- (1) Statutory damages;
- (2) An injunction against further violations;
- (3) Costs of suit;
- (4) Such other or further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

s/ Daniel A. Edelman

Daniel A. Edelman

Daniel A. Edelman  
Cathleen M. Combs  
James O. Lattner  
Francis R. Greene  
EDELMAN, COMBS, LATTNER  
& GOODWIN, L.L.C.  
120 S. LaSalle Street, 18th Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60603  
(312) 739-4200  
(312) 419-0379 (FAX)

**NOTICE OF LIEN AND ASSIGNMENT**

Please be advised that we claim a lien upon any recovery herein for 1/3 or such amount as a court awards. All rights relating to attorney's fees have been assigned to counsel.

s/ Daniel A.Edelman  
Daniel A. Edelman

Daniel A. Edelman  
EDELMAN, COMBS, LATTURNER  
& GOODWIN, LLC  
120 S. LaSalle Street, 18th Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60603  
(312) 739-4200  
(312) 419-0379 (FAX)